# WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT POLICY BOARD

# Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy Board held on April 15, 2015 at Wallingford Town Hall

A Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held at the Wallingford Town Hall on April 15, 2015. Present at the meeting were Mayor William Dickinson of Wallingford; George Noewatne, Director of Public Works and Engineering of Cheshire; Larry Kendzior, City Manager of Meriden; and Michael Freda, First Selectman of North Haven.

Others in attendance were: Derek Grasso, Mary Ruder and Joe Vitale of Covanta; Doreen Zaback, Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project Coordinator; Don Roe, Wallingford Program Planner. Wallingford resident Bob Gross arrived at 9:14 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 p.m. by Chairman Noewatne.

#### I. Approval of January 14, 2015 WRSWP Special Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dickinson motioned to approve the minutes from the above-referenced meeting; Mr. Freda seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### II. Project Update

#### A. Report on Waste Volumes and Plant Operations

Mr. Vitale reviewed waste volumes (see Attachment 1). Volumes are down about 4,700 tons with the majority of that due to elimination of non-project waste. So for member waste we are not down as much as in previous years. Mr. Kendzior stated that the residential MSW was down in every town but Meriden, where there is a 21% year-todate increase. He added that Wallingford residential is down 16%. Ms. Zaback agreed with Mr. Kendzior, but added that last year when Meriden changed their contracted hauler, we observed a decrease in residential MSW relative to previous years. Now it seems that Meriden residential waste is back to historical tonnages. Ms. Zaback said this may not be the reason for current tonnage change, but it is an observation. Ms. Zaback added that Wallingford residential is down because Wallingford has subscription service and the haulers have been bringing much of the waste to Mid-Conn. Mr. Vitale added that All Waste secured capacity at Mid-Conn for 40,000 and CWPW secured capacity for 20,000 tons so they are delivering their waste to that facility. The Bristol project lost 30,000 tons for this reason also. Mayor Dickinson said so those haulers got a lower tip fee rate at Mid-Conn; Joe Vitale said that they were able to get a rate of about \$54/ton. Mr. Vitale said the spot prices during the first quarter of the calendar year were in freefall, some facilities were offering spot waste at \$18/ton.

Mr. Freda said that every restaurant in North Haven is booming now, so is there any linkage between restaurant business booming and decrease in residential waste. Mr. Vitale said he didn't really know, but economics does come into play where the higher economic towns generate less trash. Mr. Freda asked if single-stream recycling had any impact on the lower residential tonnages. Mr. Vitale said in CT, the recycling rate has been flat, so feels that the economy in general is impacting waste volumes. Mr. Vitale

Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Policy Board Meeting, 04/15/15 added that the January/February/March quarter historically shows the lowest volume of MSW generation.

#### 1. Conversion to Transfer Station

Mr. Vitale said that Covanta stopped burning trash on April 3, 2015. The facility is fully a transfer station at this point. Ms. Zaback added that the operation of the facility is actually be done by CWPM; and Mr. Vitale said Covanta subcontracted the operation to CWPM. Mr. Kendzior asked where the MSW was being transferred to. Mr. Vitale said that currently it is going to a number of places, but a lot is going to Lisbon. The Bristol, Bridgeport, Mid-Conn and West Springfield facilities have been in outage, so March was probably not the opportune time to convert operations in Wallingford.

## B. Enforcement Activities

Mary Ruder said that the tip floor is being inspected daily, but there is no report. Ms. Ruder said in the future, Covanta will be issuing a monthly enforcement report. Ms. Zaback added that Hamden is very interested in receiving these reports and that they have been frustrated by the lack of reports in the recent past.

#### C. Environmental

#### 1. Minor Modification Application Approval

Mr. Grasso reported that Covanta received the Modified Permit on March 18, 2015. The current modified permit expires in 2018 and consists of two components: 1.) allows Covanta to operate as energy-from-waste facility if they wanted to restart; and 2.) the conditions that apply for the operation as a transfer station. The intent is to now file for a regular permit modification that will eliminate all provisions for the energy-for-waste facility and just allow for the operation of a transfer station. Covanta expects to get that application filed within the next month and it probably will be about 12 months before CT DEEP issues the permit. At the same time, Covanta finalized a Consent Order with the Air Bureau to keep the Title V Permit (Air Permit) active for up to two years. The Consent Order has conditions within it that Covanta must adhere to such as not conducting stack testing.

Mr. Vitale said he wanted to mention one other condition of the permit. When Covanta was a WTE facility, they were able to combust 420 tons/day MSW averaged over 7 days and were able to receive more than that per day since they didn't receive on Sundays. Now, the permit allows Covanta to take in only 420 tons/day. Last Friday, they had to stop receiving waste at 3pm because they were at 420 tons/day. Mr. Noewatne said Cheshire received a complaint from a hauler about that. Mr. Grasso said that this is something Covanta missed in the permit application and doesn't believe it is the intent of DEEP is to only allow 420 tons/day on any single day. He is hopeful that Covanta will clarify this with DEEP. Ms. Zaback agreed that it does seem to be the intent of DEEP as in all the material they released about the permit modification, this change was not mentioned.

#### III. Legislative Overview

#### A. State

## Sec. 25 of Governor's Bill No. 946, Solid Waste Assessment.

Ms. Zaback explained that the Governor's budget proposes to increase the solid waste assessment to \$2.50/ton from the current fee of \$1.50/ton and to broaden the application of the fee to include bulky waste and MSW going out-of-state. She stated that she had sent a letter in opposition to this proposed change to all the legislators of the member towns on March 18. Ms. Zaback said she has also talked with Mike Cicchetti, the Covanta Government Liaison, and he asked if each chief executive officer of the member towns would send letters to legislators opposing the fee increase. A sample letter was provided by Mr. Cicchetti. If this proposed fee increase is approved, it will be a change-in-law and will be passed down to the municipalities.

Mayor Dickinson asked if the \$2.2 million referenced in the sample letter was state-wide. Ms. Zaback said that was correct. Mayor Dickinson said that perhaps letters sent by Policy Board members should reflect the local impact. Ms. Zaback agreed and said that in the letter she sent legislators it did mention the anticipated impact to the project, which is approximately \$120,000.

# 2. H.B. 6033, AAC the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.

Ms. Zaback said this bill is on the House Calendar, but there hasn't been any movement on it since the end of March.

# 3. S. B. 349, AAC Single-Use Carryout Plastic and Paper Bags and the Use of Reusable Bags.

Ms. Zaback said this bill is moving forward, and looks like it might be on its way to passing.

#### 4. S. B. 869, AAC Establishing a Tire Stewardship Program.

Ms. Zaback indicated this bill is now on the Consent Calendar

# 5. H.B. 6957, ACC Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Stewardship Program

Ms. Zaback said this bill is also moving forward. She said this bill and the one for the tire stewardship program are similar to the Mattress Stewardship program where an outside organization will oversee the program and be responsible for collecting fees from manufacturers and work with municipalities and retail establishments to provide collection containers, transport and recycling.

Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Policy Board Meeting, 04/15/15

Mayor Dickinson asked for clarification on S.B. 349. Ms. Zaback said this bill will ban plastic bags and single-use paper bags at grocery stores and retail establishments. The bill will also cause a \$0.10 fee to be charged if a plastic bag or single-use paper bag is provided to a customer. Ms. Zaback added that this bill has a lot of support in the state and that the Town of Westport adopted a similar ordinance a few years ago and many from that town testified that it is not a burden.

#### B. Federal

Ms. Zaback said that EPA is now gathering data from owners/operators of WTE facilities regarding emissions released from their facilities. This data will be used by EPA when they make changes to the MACT standards. Covanta added that they are required to submit five years of stack test data to EPA. So, after a couple of years of no movement on MACT, there is now movement. This data collection process should be complete by the end of the year. Derek Grasso said the way the process works is that EPA will make proposal, then there will be a 90- or 120-day comment period, then a 2-3 year and some ards allowed at WTE facilities. This won't impact the Wallingford that they but will impact the other Covanta facilities in the CT.

## IV. Solid Waste Management Best Practices/Emerging Trends

## A. S: closing of facilities in NH, CT and FL

New England we have seen closure of two facilities and in North Broward County, Florida, Wheelabrator is looking to close another plant. One recent study has indicated that New England has probably lost 25% disposal capacity since Part of the reason for the closures is simply overcapacity and companies ol costs. In New England, it is believed we will not be at capacity for a few year and at that time, we may see disposal costs increase. Joe Vitale said the single biggest factor besides capacity is the low price of electricity, and there no relief in that in e foreseeable future. This past winter, wholesale electric prices didn't go anywhere as s the winter of 2013-14. There was discussion of regional and global reasons for nt pricing. Mayor Dickinson said it is absolutely unbelievable what is happening on't want to deal with how to fix it. Mayor Dickinson summarized the and discussion saying basically WTE is not economically feasible. Joe Vitale said he might not go that far, as depending on the structure of the project, some might be better able to weather current economic conditions better than others. Mayor Dickinson asked that if the economy does turn around, what happens to the trash then, does it get shipped out of state. Joe Vitale said that at its worst, tonnage was down 8-10%, now loss of tonnage has slowed to about 2-3% per year. This is coupled with new recycling programs pulling more material out of the waste stream. Mr. Vitale said if we do get back to capacity, he would then expect it would be economically feasible for organic recycling facilities to kick in, which will then pull more MSW out of the waste stream. He said right now, organics facilities are not economically feasible because the difference between the tip fee at an organics facility and an MSW facility isn't enough. But if the tip fee for MSW increases to \$75-85/ton, then the difference is great enough to attract customers to organics facilities.

#### V. Reserves

#### A. WRSWP Interlocal Reserve Update

#### 1. Account Balance

Ms. Zaback distributed the account balance sheet (Attachment 2). The balance as of March 31, 205 was \$2,010,421.79.

#### 2. Report from Wallingford Comptroller

At the January Policy Board meeting, there was discussion of the low amount of interest the Reserve Fund is generating. The Policy Board asked the Wallingford Finance Department to explain how the fund is invested and if there was a way to obtain a higher interest rate with a different type of investment. Ms. Zaback distributed a memo from Peter Murphy, the Town Treasurer, explaining that the fund is now in a money market receiving 0.15% interest and that efforts are underway to improve the interest rate by negotiating with the current bank or moving the fund to another bank.

#### VI. First Amendment to Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement

#### A. CPI determination

Ms. Zaback said we still need to keep track of the CPI determination as it does affect our tip fee moving forward. Right now, the tip fee is at \$65/ton and will be at that rate for 12 months. However, after the 12 months is up next March, the tip fee for the period March 2016-June 30, 2016 will be adjusted according to the CPI determination as of March 31, 2015. As of yesterday the CPI was showing a 1.6% change over last year, so we should assume that the tip fee will be adjusted to the floor of the contracted CPI range, which is 1.75%.

Ms. Zaback said that this could change after we undergo the local market reset evaluation and if it is determined that the tip fee of six similar projects is less than \$65/ton. At this time there was a discussion of tip fees in CT. Ms. Zaback distributed a list of estimated tip fees for projects around the state for FY 2015-16 (see Attachment 3). Ms. Zaback stressed that this is not an exhaustive list. Some representative projects in the state will have tip fees ranging from \$60.50 to \$64.00 per ton, and depending on the structure of the project may have added transfer station and transport fees.

Ms. Zaback said that within the next few months we do need to go through the process of the local market reset determination. There was discussion of the timetable for this process. Ms. Zaback indicated that the local market reset could impact the tip fee as of July 1, 2015. Discussion involved the need to possibly hire an outside consultant to assist with the process and the need to have a special meeting to further discuss this issue in the near future. Ms. Zaback advised that outside assistance may be needed to review details of contracts to determine similarities and differences of the contracts and that the comparison of contracts in not based solely on tip fee. She reminded the Policy Board that in 2014 she had developed a table of contracts illustrating some of the major terms of the contracts. Mr. Freda asked that the table be sent to Policy Board members.

Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Policy Board Meeting, 04/15/15 Joe Vitale added that certain contracts have different change-in-law liabilities and for that reason those contracts may not be considered similar.

#### VII. Project Coordinator Report

## A. Discussion and Approval of Project Coordinator's Budget

Ms. Zaback referred Policy Board members to the draft FY2015-16 budget that had been sent in the meeting packet (see Attachment 4). She indicated that the budget was based on the previous year's budget and adjusted assuming a CPI increase of 1.75%. Mr. Kendzior asked whether the Coordinator's salary was calculated using a 1.75% or 2% increase. Ms. Zaback said 1.75% was used. Mr. Kendzior said salary increases average 2% in Meriden. Mr. Kendzior made a motion to approve the budget with a 2% increase in salary; the motion was seconded by Mr. Freda and was unanimously approved.

Mayor Dickinson asked whether this change would then cause Covanta to adjust the amount that they provide for staffing the Policy Board. Ms. Zaback said, no, that would not happen since the funds Covanta provides is a larger amount than the salary line item – there would just be an adjustment to the other line items in the budget. Mr. Freda thanked Ms. Zaback for the work she provides to the Policy Board. Mayor Dickinson motioned to approve the budget in its entirety; the motion was seconded by Mr. Kendzior and was unanimously approved.

#### B. Tip Fees, FY 2015-16

See discussion in Section VI.A.

#### C. National Drug Take Back Collections

Ms. Zaback said she wanted to bring to the attention of the Policy Board that the Drug Enforcement Administration was no longer sponsoring the twice a year take back collections due to a ruling that was finalized last October. This ruling allows for pharmacies and retail drug outlets to collect unwanted drugs. Ms. Zaback said that in Wallingford there will not be a take back collection in April. In North Haven, the Substance Abuse Council will be sponsoring a collection in April. Joe Vitale said that Covanta will be assisting with a drug take back collection at the Hamden Earth Day Fair. Mr. Freda said that North Haven may have found someone to fund that for them and suggested contacting Valerie in his office for more information.

#### VIII. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting would be held on July 15, 2015.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Doreen Zaback
April 16, 2015

# WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT MEETING AGENDA April 15, 2015

# 9:00 A.M.

## **WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 315**

- I. Approval of January 14, 2015 WRSWP Special Meeting Minutes
- II. Project Update
  - A. Report on Waste Volumes and Plant Operations
    - 1. Conversion to Transfer Station
  - B. Enforcement Activities
  - C. Environmental
    - 2. Minor Modification Application Approval
- III. Legislative Overview
  - A. State
    - 1. Sec. 25 of Governor's Bill No. 946, Solid Waste Assessment.
    - 2. H.B. 6033, AAC the Inclusion of Juices, Teas, and Sports Drinks Under Connecticut's Bottle Bill.
    - 3. S. B. 349, AAC Single-Use Carryout Plastic and Paper Bags and the Use of Reusable Bags.
    - 4. S. B. 869, AAC Establishing a Tire Stewardship Program
    - 5. H.B. 6957, ACC Establishing a Household Battery Recycling Stewardship Program
  - B. Federal
- IV. Solid Waste Management Best Practices/Emerging Trends
  - A. State of WTE in US: closing of facilities in NH, CT and FL
- V. Reserves
  - A. WRSWP Interlocal Reserve Update
    - Account Balance
    - 2. Report from Wallingford Comptroller
- VI. First Amendment to Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Agreement
  - A. CPI determination
- VII. Project Coordinator Report
  - A. Discussion and Approval of Project Coordinator's Budget
  - B. Tip Fees, FY 2015-16
  - C. National Drug Take Back Collections
- VIII. Next Meeting July 15, 2015
- IX. Adjourn

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Prior

Total	Wallingford Hamden	North Haven	Meriden	Cheshire	
2,008,159.27	542,549.21 462,661.79	288,456.13	445,132.60	269,359.54	Balance 7/1/14
100.00	27.01	14.36	22.16	13.41	Percent
255.85	59.00	36.74	56.70	34.31	July Interest 2014
239.37	55.20	34.37	53.04	32.10	August Interest 2014
264.17	60.92	37.93	58.54	35.43	September Interest 2014
255.95	59.02	36.75	56.72	34.32	October Interest 2014
231.21	53.32	33.20	51.24	31.01	November Interest 2014
272.53	62.85	39.14	60.39	36.55	December Interest 2014
247.78	57.14	35.58	54.91	33.23	January Interest 2015
231.29	53.34	33.21	51.25	31.02	February Interest 2015
264.37	60.96	37.96	58.58	35.45	March Interest 2015
2,010,421.79	463,183.54	288,781.01	445,633.97	269,662.96	Balance 3/31/15

Original Contribution

Total	Hamden	Wallingford	North Haven	Meriden	Cheshire	
2,000,000.00	461,200.00	540,200.00	287,200.00	443,200.00	268,200.00	
100.00	23.06	27.01	14.36	22.16	13.41	

## Tip Fees in CT, FY 2015-2016

<b>Tip Fee (approximate)</b> \$65.00*
\$61.00-61.50 \$62-\$64 \$60.50 (plus transfer station and transport fees)
\$61.12
\$62.37 (plus \$13.75/ton transportation fee)
\$61.03
\$61.72
\$61.50
\$61.50
\$61.20
\$60.82

<sup>\* =</sup> if Local Market Average as of 7/1/15 is greater than \$65/ton, the tip fee shall remain at \$65/ton until the first anniversary of the Implementation Date, 1/12/16. At this time the tip fee will be adjusted according to the 3/31/15 CPI and will remain until 6/30/16.

PROJECT COORDINATOR BUDGET

Covanta funded - contracts provides \$56,000 plus increase based on yearly CPI to staff Policy Board. CPI estimated at 1.75% increase on \$60,319; total budget estimated to be \$61,375.

DRAFT

-					-22	
Line Item	Approved FY11	Approved FY 12	Approved FY13	Approved FY 14	Approved FY 15	Proposed FY 16
SALARY - Coordinator	41,088	41,088	41,705	42,435	43,178	43,933
Clerical	1,100	1,125	1,142	1,160	1,180	1,201
FRINGE - FICA - Worker's Comp	3,31 <b>4</b> 658	3,207 671	3,256 682	3,313 694	3,371 706	3,430 719
TRANSPORTATION,MEALS LODGING,CONFERENCE, etc.	2,200	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,239	2,278
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	600	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,290	1,400
OUTSIDE PROFESSIONAL CONSULTATION	0	1,100	1548	1,500	1,526	1,553
PHONE	450	379	379	310	315	300
SUPPLIES	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,035	2,072
COPYING, POSTAGE & MISC	640	600	600	520	529	540
TOWN ACCOUNTING SVS	3,950	3,950	3,950	3,950	3,950	3,950
TOTALS	56,000	57,120	58,262	59,282	60,319	61,375
Professional Services - Consulting current balance		6,584	11,468	17,390	25,482	